

Bus Reliability Improves While Rail Transit Slides; Long-Term Trend Is Positive

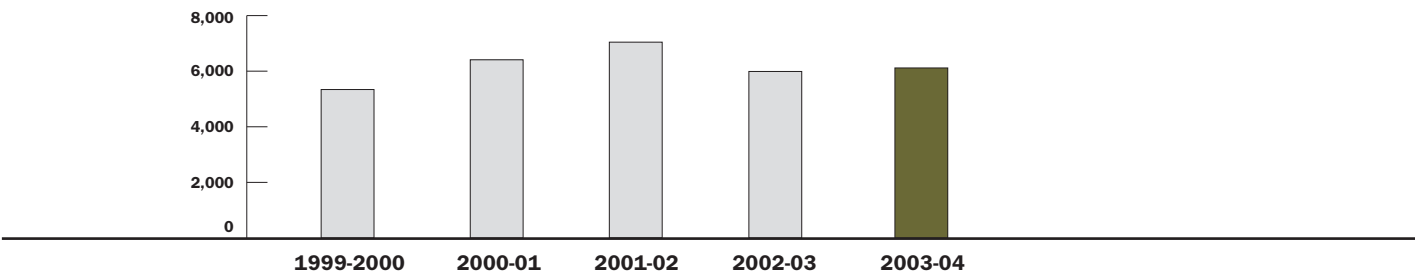
- The Bay Area’s largest bus operators improved a key measure of reliability in 2003-04, while the performance of the major rail transit operators worsened. The average distance traveled between service calls for buses increased 6 percent, to 6,130 miles. But the average distance between rail service calls decreased 16 percent, to 6,060 miles. A service call occurs when a bus or train requires repair and cannot complete scheduled service.
- These results are consistent with the general trend since

1999-2000. With the exception of 2002-03, the number of miles traveled between bus service calls has increased steadily, resulting in a cumulative 22 percent increase over the five-year period. On the other hand, the number of miles between rail service calls has decreased a cumulative 14 percent over the same timeframe.

- Because buses account for approximately 83 percent of regional transit service (measured in revenue service miles) while rail transit accounts for approximately

Service Calls — Six Largest Bay Area Transit Operators, Fiscal Years 1999-2000 – 2003-04

	Average Miles Between Service Calls					FY 2002-03– 2003-04	FY 1999-2000– 2003-04
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04		
Rail ¹	7,080	6,920	6,470	7,250	6,060	–16%	–14%
Bus ²	5,020	6,310	7,150	5,760	6,130	+6%	+22%
Rail and Bus ³	5,340	6,410	7,040	5,990	6,120	+2%	+15%



Source: Transit Operators

¹Includes BART, VTA light rail, Muni light rail

²Includes AC Transit, SamTrans, Muni, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), Golden Gate Transit

³Combined “Rail and Bus” average is weighted by revenue vehicle miles of service.

Note: Reliability improves as the average number of miles between service calls increases

17 percent, the considerable improvements in bus performance more than counterbalance the decline in rail performance. As a result, the average miles between service calls for the bus and rail operators combined increased 2 percent between 2002-03 and 2003-04 and 15 percent over the longer time period from 1999-2000 to 2003-04.